

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 SCEM-02 COME-00

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /162 W

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R 121755Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8649

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 5200

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, BE, IR

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT IRAN; IBRAMCO REFINERY

1. GOB SOURCES CONFIRM THAT PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON WILL MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN SEPTEMBER 20-28 AT INVITATION OF IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. SCHEDULE FOR VISIT NOT YET KNOWN BUT, ACCORDING TO FONOFF DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF IBRAMCO REFINERY PROJECT.

2. PROPOSED BELGIAN-IRANIAN REFINERY REMAINS CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE IN BELGIUM. LEBURTON AND SOCIALIST PARTY HEAVILY COMMITTED BUT OPPOSITION STRONG WITHIN COALITION GOVERNMENT. NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ALSO BECOMING INVOLVED WITH CHARGE THAT LANNAYE LOCATION WILL CAUSE POLLUTION ACROSS NEARBY DUTCH BORDER. LEBURTON AND SOCIALISTS HAVE STILL NOT YET PRODUCED CHANGES IN IBRAMCO ORGANIZATION (I.E. REDUCE NUMBER SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF BOARD) OR ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY PROMISED LAST SPRING (BRUSSELS 2467 AND PREVIOUS). FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN MEMBERS OF COALITION POINTEDLY REMINDED LEBURTON OF THIS DELAY IN LETTER TO HIM MADE PUBLIC LAST WEEK. MEANWHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT NIOC OFFICIAL ASSIGNED TO IBRAMCO TO CONDUCT

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ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY, OVERSEE CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY, AND MANAGE HAS RETURNED TO BRUSSELS AFTER SHORT TRIP TO TEHRAN

AND IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY HERE SEVERAL YEARS. STRAUZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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